

A NEW SPECIES OF *MELAMPODIUM* (ASTERACEAE, HELIANTHEAE)
FROM JALISCO, MEXICO

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ABSTRACT

A new species, *Melampodium mayfieldii* B.L. Turner, is described from near El Tuito, western Jalisco, México. It is closely related to the widespread *M. americanum* but is readily distinguished by its shrubby habit, merely pilose leaves, involucrel bracts with purple-scarios margins, and large showy ray florets (ligules mostly 8-12 mm long vs. mostly 3-7 mm long).

KEY WORDS: Asteraceae, Heliantheae, *Melampodium*, México, Jalisco

Routine identification of Mexican Asteraceae has revealed the following novelty.

Melampodium mayfieldii B.L. Turner, *sp. nov.* Figure 1. TYPE: MEXICO. Jalisco: "ca. 10 km up road which originates on the coastal highway to Puerto Vallarta at a point 2.5 mi NW of the town of El Tuito (ca. 20°23'N, 105°16'W), in forest of pines and oaks with *Podocarpus*, *Dioon*, *Styrax*, along stream, 850 m, 12 Jan 1993, Mark H. Mayfield 1641, with B.L. Westlund and J. Sanchez-Ken (HOLOTYPE: TEX!; Isotypes: MEXU!, NY!).

Melampodio americano L. similis sed differt habitu (frutices expansi vs. herbae suffruticosae), foliorum paginis inferis trichomatibus brevibus (1.0-1.5 mm longis vs. 3-6 mm longis) pilosis non-floccosisque, bracteorum involucrelialium marginibus purpurei-scariosis (vs. herbaceis), et flosculis radii ligulis longioribus (8-12 mm longis vs. 3-7 mm).



Figure 1. Photograph of holotype of *Melampodium mayfieldii*

Small spreading shrubs to 50 cm high and ca. as wide. Stems woody, persistent, new annual growth arising from well-defined woody shoots 10-30 cm above the ground-level, the young shoots densely pilose. Leaves simple throughout, sessile or nearly so, the blade epetiolate or passing into an indistinct petiole, connate, oblanceolate, mostly 3-4 cm long, 0.8-1.2 cm wide, densely and evenly white-pilose beneath with incurved hairs 1.0-1.5 mm long (these not at all elongate, silky and entangled as in *Melampodium americanum*), the upper surfaces similarly pubescent but less so. Heads 2-3 cm wide across the expanded rays, single, terminal, on peduncles mostly 3-7 cm long. Principal involucre bracts 5, broadly obovate, somewhat cuspidate, the apical margins clearly purple-scarious. Ray florets 8-13, the ligules bright yellow, 8-12 mm long, 3-5 mm wide. Receptacular bracts with broadly expanded, 2-3 lobed yellow-scarious apices. Disk florets numerous, sterile, the corollas yellow. Achenes ca. 3 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, laterally ornate with 3-4 warty ribs, the enclosing bract not producing a hood.

On first inspection I took the present material to be an unusually suffruticose collection of the widespread highly variable *Melampodium americanum* L. Closer inspection revealed a number of features that readily distinguish *M. mayfieldii* from the latter, including the following: 1) shrubby habit, any new growth arising from woody stems well above the ground level (vs. herbs with new annual growth from ground level); 2) relatively thick, broad, simple leaves which are uniformly pilose beneath with recurved, short hairs mostly 1.0-1.5 mm long (vs. long, silky, silvery-white hairs 3-6 mm long); 3) larger involucre bracts with well-defined purple-scarious apical margins (vs. herbaceous throughout); and 4) ligules of ray florets mostly 8-12 mm long (vs. mostly 3-7 mm long).

Neither Stuessy's (1972) revisionary treatment of *Melampodium* nor McVaugh's (1984) floristic portrayal of that genus for Jalisco will account for the present taxon. In the former, it will key to *M. linearilobum* DC. (an annual having involucre bracts with yellow-scarious margins); in the latter it will not key because of its non flocculent pubescence on the undersurfaces of leaves, but if this character were denied, it would also key with difficulty to *M. linearilobum*.

It is a pleasure to name this species for Mr. Mark H. Mayfield, terminal year doctoral student at the University of Texas, Austin, who is preparing a monographic study of the genus *Poinsettia* (Euphorbiaceae). He called my attention to the material concerned and participated in its discovery.

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LITERATURE CITED

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